

About NSTTAC

Website: <http://www.nsttac.org/>

NSTTAC is a national technical assistance and dissemination center funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP, CFDA# 84.326J11001) from January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2014.

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) is directed and staffed by the Special Education Program at the [University of North Carolina at Charlotte](#), in partnership with the Special Education Program at [Western Michigan University](#). NSTTAC provides technical assistance (TA) and disseminates information to State Education Agencies, Local Education Authorities, schools, and other stakeholders to (a) implement and scale up evidence-based practices leading to improved academic and functional achievement for students with disabilities, preparing them for college or other postsecondary education and training and the workforce; (b) implement policies, procedures, and practices to facilitate and increase participation of students with disabilities in programs and initiatives designed to ensure college- and career-readiness; and (c) achieve 100% compliance with IDEA, Part B Indicator 13 (I-13). To do this, NSTTAC will:

1. Conduct *Knowledge Development Activities*. We will (a) continue our comprehensive literature review and prepare papers synthesizing research on policies and practices related to transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education and the workforce, and (b) continue to analyze Part B of State APRs to determine current status of appropriate postsecondary goals and implementation of transition services that support, or create barriers, to improved performance.

2. Provide *Technical Assistance and Dissemination Activities*. We will (a) provide a continuum of technical assistance activities, with a minimum of five states receiving intensive TA; (b) maintain and expand our Web site, meeting government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility; (c) further prepare and disseminate materials on developing appropriate postsecondary goals and implementing transition services and related topics; (d) continue to develop materials, guidance, and TA for States on Indicator 13; (e) continue to help States improve data collection and reporting systems for I-13; and (f) host annual national institutes that engage researchers, policymakers, administrators, practitioners, and other

appropriate stakeholders in information exchange and strategic planning on developing appropriate postsecondary goals and implementing transition services.

3. Provide Leadership and Coordination Activities. We will (a) expand our collaborative partnerships to business organizations to promote employment of individuals with disabilities and expand work-based learning experiences for students with disabilities; (b) continue to compile and share data on I-13; (c) establish an advisory committee to review activities and outcomes and provide support and advice throughout the project; (d) expand collaborations with other projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education; and (e) continue to participate in, organize, and facilitate communities of practice aligned with needs of target audiences.

STATE OF TRANSITION

High school graduation traditionally signifies a time filled with many challenges and changes. It is a time anxiously awaited by students and parents, filled with hopes and dreams of successfully leaving high school and moving into employment and/or postsecondary education. Halpern (1992) has defined this transition as "a period of *floundering* that occurs for at least the first several years after leaving school as adolescents attempt to assume a *variety* of adult roles in their communities" (p. 203) . Unfortunately for students with disabilities the "floundering period" often lasts for years, and in some cases, a lifetime. To ensure full implementation of IDEA and to help youth with disabilities and their families achieve desired post-school outcomes, **NSTTAC** helps states build capacity to support and improve transition planning, services, and outcomes for youth with disabilities.

PURPOSE OF NSTTAC

The purpose of NSTTAC is to provide technical assistance (TA) and disseminate information on (a) implementing and scaling up evidence-based practices leading to improved academic and functional achievement for students with disabilities, preparing them for college or other postsecondary education and training and the workforce; (b) implementing policies, procedures, and practices to facilitate and increase participation of students with disabilities in programs and initiatives designed to ensure college- and career-readiness; and (c) achieving 100% compliance with IDEA, Part B Indicator 13 (I-13).